AMENDMENT

Unmarked Version

Presented below are the amended claims in a clean, unmarked format.

For the Examiner's convenience all pending claims are presented herein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A method comprising:

   updating bidding information associated with an item in an online environment to reflect a current bid associated with the item in a live, in-person auction;

   accepting a bid from an online bidder in the online environment reflecting the online bidder's maximum proxy price; and

   bidding on behalf of the online bidder against one or more live bidders that are participating in the live, in-person auction based upon the maximum proxy price.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said bidding on behalf of the online bidder comprises bidding an amount that exceeds the current bid so long as the amount does not exceed the maximum proxy price, and so long as the current bid is not that of the online bidder.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

   prior to the live, in-person auction, establishing a starting bid for the item by performing a pre-auction bidding process in the online

environment for a predetermined amount of time; and

communicating the starting bid for the item to the live, in-person auction.

4.   (Twice Amended) A method comprising:

establishing a starting bid for an item for a live portion of an auction by

performing a pre-auction bidding process in an online environment

for a predetermined amount of time;

communicating the starting bid for the item to the live portion of the

auction; and

during the live auction portion of the auction:

updating bidding information associated with the item in the online

environment to reflect a current bid associated with the item

in the live portion of the auction;

accepting a bid from an online bidder in the online environment

reflecting the online bidder's maximum proxy price; and

bidding against one or more live bidders that are present at the live

auction portion of the auction until one of:

the maximum proxy price has been exceeded; and

no further live bids are received.

5.   (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:

a storage device having stored therein a one or more routines for

integrating an online bidding process with a live portion of an auction;

a processor coupled to the storage device for executing the one or more routines to provide feedback to online bidders in an online environment during the live portion of the auction and serve as a proxy bidder for the online bidders, where:

a starting bid is established for an item for the live portion of the auction by performing a pre-auction bidding process in the online environment for a predetermined amount of time;

feedback is provided to the online bidders by updating bidding information associated with the item in the online environment to reflect a current bid associated with the item during the live portion of the auction; and

proxy bidding is accomplished by accepting a bid from one or more of the online bidders reflecting the online bidders' maximum proxy price and bidding on behalf of the one or more online bidders against one or more live bidders participating in the live portion of the auction until the occurrence of one of:

each of the one or more online bidders' maximum proxy price has been exceeded; and

no further live bids are received.

6.   (Twice Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon

data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

establish a starting bid for an item for a live portion of an auction by performing a pre-auction bidding process in an online environment for a predetermined amount of time;

communicate the starting bid for the item to the live portion of the auction; and

during the live auction portion of the auction:

update bidding information associated with the item in the online environment to reflect a current bid associated with the item in the live portion of the auction,

accept a bid from an online bidder in the online environment reflecting the online bidder's maximum proxy price, and

bid against one or more live bidders that are present at the live auction portion of the auction until one of:

the maximum proxy price has been exceeded; and

no further live bids are received.